



# Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE XLIV

October 2014

## Avon Is Going Solar!



Avon is excited to announce an agreement with SolarCity to move to clean, renewable solar energy. The rooftop solar systems, to be built at AHS, AMS and the DPW garage, will be comprised of more than 2,000 solar panels. Construction is expected to commence in early 2015, starting with DPW. The move to solar energy will reduce both energy costs and carbon pollution for the town. The annual energy savings from the three installations will be equal to taking 63 cars off the roadways! The AHS and AMS installations will include web-based dashboards that will update students on both the solar system's energy production and its environmental benefits. There will also be classroom demonstration kits to teach students how solar works. The installations will also help the Town of Avon to move more than halfway toward its adopted goal of reducing its carbon footprint 20% by 2020. SolarCity, with local operations based in Rocky Hill, will provide Avon with solar electricity through a 15-year power purchase agreement (PPA). Avon makes no upfront investment and only pays for the power generated by the new arrays. The Town will save money by paying less for the solar energy than the cost of utility power. We'll keep residents up to date about the progress of the installation in future newsletters.

In addition, the Town was recently selected to participate in Phase V of the State's Solarize Connecticut program, which makes it easy and affordable for residents to go solar; that is, to convert sunlight into electricity that we can all use in our homes. It is a statewide initiative that towns compete to be part of. The program provides residents significant discounts off the cost of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system, which is in addition to incentives from the state and federal governments. More information on this exciting project will be distributed widely as it becomes available. Stay tuned!

## Thompson/Old Farms Road Update

A Scope of Services has been prepared for the Town's consultant to evaluate the feasibility of relocating a portion of Old Farms Road such that it qualifies for permitting under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed improvements include the relocation of Old Farms Road from the vicinity of its intersection with Tillotson Road southwesterly along a new alignment that is approximately 1,900 feet south of its present location and then westerly until its newly proposed intersection with Thompson Road. If constructed, this project would improve vehicular traffic safety and have many additional benefits including the preservation of an open space and wildlife corridor and link existing open space along the Farmington River with other corridors to the west and southwest.

It is anticipated that the Feasibility Study will begin shortly. A public information meeting will be scheduled. Additional information can be found on the Engineering Department's web page located at [www.town.avon.ct.us](http://www.town.avon.ct.us).

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## Old Farms Bridge Replacement & Improvements Update

Old Farms Bridge Replacement and Improvements to Intersection of Old Farms Road and Route 10 - The Town has been successful in obtaining a commitment from the Connecticut Department of Transportation to fund these projects. While the State has committed to 100% funding for completion of design, acquisition of necessary permits and construction, the Town is aware that this project is a gateway to Avon and will consider providing additional funding for aesthetic treatment for highway appurtenances, additional landscaping and construction of a canoe launch at the site of the existing bridge as part of the upcoming budget process.

The design of this project is underway and a public information meeting will be scheduled. Additional information can be found on the Engineering Department's web page located at [www.town.avon.ct.us](http://www.town.avon.ct.us).

## Thompson Road Athletic Complex: Project Design Update

When the Town of Avon purchased the former MH Rhodes property located at 99 Thompson Road in 2003, one of the municipal purposes discussed for the 15.25 acre parcel was additional playing fields for local sports teams, clubs, and recreation programs. In 2007, this concept was formalized in the Town's Recreation & Park Facilities Master Plan, which identified the site as a candidate location for a synthetic, multi-purpose, lighted field complex. By way of background, the site required remediation and groundwater monitoring after the 2003 purchase, given the property's industrial past. The monitoring program was completed and approved by the State in 2012.

In December 2013, at the request of the Town Council, staff prepared a Statement of Needs (pursuant to Town Council Policy) that was based upon the 2007 Master Plan, which noted that the benefits of such a facility include increased playability, increased field versatility, reduced maintenance costs, extended field availability, and competitive balance for Avon teams, but also emphasized that any consideration of such a facility should proactively address neighborhood concerns with respect to noise, lighting, and traffic.

In January 2014, the Town Council appropriated funding to hire an architect and tasked the Recreation and Parks Committee (RPC) to work with the architect to develop a preliminary design, with a cost estimate, for the facility. A subcommittee of the RPC selected BSC Group out of Glastonbury and the task is in process. It is anticipated that the Committee will have a recommended plan by early November for the consideration of the Town Council, at which time next steps will be discussed.

Please feel free to contact the Town Manager's Office at (860) 409-4300 for additional information.



Depiction of Concept M from BSC Group which is being considered by the Recreation and Park Subcommittee for preliminary design and cost estimate purposes.



## Mold: Tips on Prevention and Control

Mold is caused when microscopic, airborne spores land on moist surfaces and spread rapidly. Molds can have useful purposes. Life-saving penicillin is derived from mold. Many foods, such as blue cheese, require mold as part of their manufacturing process. And as owners of compost piles know, mold plays an important role in the cycle of nature, helping to break down organic materials. It takes a concerted and concentrated effort to maintain a mold-resistant building. Builders and contractors must carefully construct buildings in accordance with approved plans and follow good construction practices in assembling the building components. Building owners and tenants must be observant and take immediate steps to maintain existing buildings and their systems to prevent moisture from accumulating.

**General Tips For Preventing Mold** - Here are some common-sense precautions that builders, homeowners, and/or building owners can follow to avoid mold and ensure health and safety when building or maintaining a structure.

- ◆ Fix leaky plumbing and leaks in the building envelope as soon as possible.
- ◆ Watch for condensation and wet spots.
- ◆ Fix sources of moisture problems as soon as possible.
- ◆ Prevent moisture caused by condensation by increasing surface temperature or reducing the moisture level in the air (humidity).
- ◆ Insulate or increase air circulation to increase surface temperature.
- ◆ Increase ventilation (if outside air is cold and dry), or dehumidify (if outdoor air is warm and humid) to reduce the moisture level in the air, and repair ventilation leaks.
- ◆ Keep heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning drip pans clean, flowing properly, and unobstructed.
- ◆ Vent moisture-generating appliances, such as dryers, to the outside where possible.
- ◆ Maintain low indoor humidity, below 60 percent relative humidity (RH), ideally 30 to 50 percent, if possible.
- ◆ Adhere to a regular schedule of building/HVAC inspections and maintenance.
- ◆ Provide drainage outside foundation walls, and slope the ground away from the foundation to speed drying after rainfalls.

**What the Codes Say** - The CT State Building Code sets the minimum requirements necessary to ensure safety. According to these codes, builders and owners must fight the problem of mold in a three-fold approach.

1. There must be proper ventilation of all interior habitable and occupiable areas along with specific concealed spaces.

- See Section 1203 of the *International Building Code*, Section R303 of the *International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings*, and Chapter 4 of the *International Mechanical Code*.

2. The exterior envelope of all buildings must be provided with vapor retarders, water-resistive barriers, and the necessary flashing.

- See Chapter 14 of the *International Building Code* and Section R703 of the *International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings*.

**Removing Mold—Guidelines for Remediation** Mold can generally be removed from nonporous (hard) surfaces by wiping or scrubbing with water or with a combination of water and detergent. The use of a biocide, such as chlorine bleach, is not recommended as a routine practice during mold cleanup. Remember, biocides are toxic to humans as well as to mold, and you should read and follow label precautions. Never mix chlorine bleach solution with cleaning solutions or detergents that contain ammonia because toxic fumes could be produced. When a mold problem is discovered, it is important to protect the health of everyone involved tenants, contractors, and work crews. These guidelines will help, even if you have little or no experience with mold remediation. Refer to these guidelines when evaluating an in-house remediation plan or a remediation plan submitted by an outside contractor. Contractors and other professionals who respond to mold and moisture situations in commercial buildings and schools will also find these guidelines essential.

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## Social Services Programs

- ⇒ **CT Energy Assistance Programs:** The State of Connecticut can help certain households pay for primary heating bills (i.e. oil, propane, electric, and gas), if those households meet certain federal poverty income guidelines and limited asset tests. For the upcoming 2014-2015 winter season, you may call Avon Social Services to see if you qualify for an appointment (regardless of whether you are a new or returning applicant). The program for oil ends on March 15, 2015, and all others, April 30, 2015. The Department strongly encourages clients to apply for Energy Assistance as early as possible, as the Department’s ability to provide emergency fuel deliveries through the Avon Fuel Bank will be extremely limited! If you would like more information on this program, please visit the Town website, under the Social Services link [“Energy Assistance & Renters’ Rebate,”](#) or contact the Social Services Office at (860) 409-4346 with any questions.
- ⇒ **Operation Fuel:** Operation Fuel provides one-time assistance with heating bills for those households who may be slightly over the income/assets threshold for government programs (like the one listed above). More information is usually available by November or December each year through Gifts of Love at (860) 676-2323.
- ⇒ **Holiday Baskets:** The Social Services Department is collecting donations for the upcoming holiday season, in order to help Avon families in need. Please join us again! **Drop-Off for Thanksgiving** is between **7:30 am and 9:30 am on Monday, November 17, 2014** (and any prior Tuesday (9:30 am - 11:30 am) and by appointment, call (860) 409-4346), at St. Ann’s Catholic Church (Avon Food Pantry), and the **Winter Basket Drop-Off** is **Friday, December 19, 2014**, at the same location and times. For more information about our Holiday Basket Program, please visit the Town website, under the Social Services link [“Holiday Basket Program.”](#)

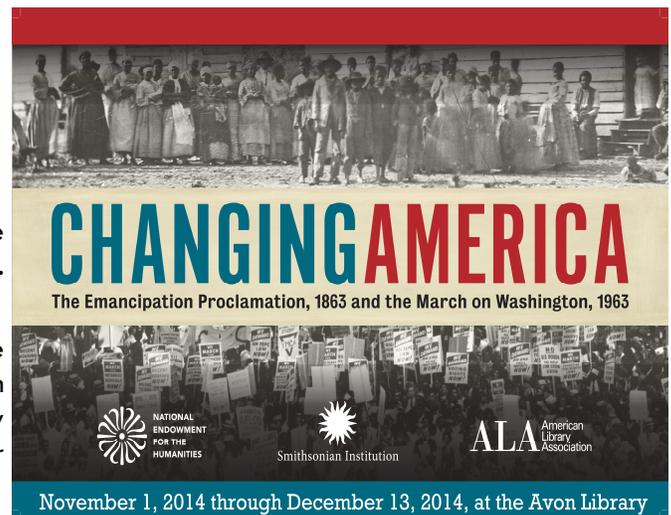
## “Changing America” Exhibit

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, November 1, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.**

**Opening Ceremonies** for the “Changing America” exhibit at the Avon Free Public Library, featuring a special presentation by Dr. Matthew Warshauer, CCSU.

This fall, the Avon Library will be the first East Coast stop for the national tour of this exhibit. We are the only library in Connecticut selected to host this special exhibit. Learn the story of Civil Rights in America from November 1, 2014—December 16, 2014.



## Senior Center Event

On Monday, November 10, 2014 at 12:00 p.m., the Avon and Canton Senior Centers and the Senior Citizens of Avon Organization will join together to honor and celebrate our Veterans. We will enjoy a delicious meal, a wonderful program and great music! We need volunteers to help with set-up, serving and clean up. The event will cost \$5.00; please call the Avon Senior Center at (860) 675-4355 to volunteer or sign up. Thank you to our community providers who have already agreed to volunteer time or resources. We appreciate you!



## FY 2015/2016 Budget Process

The process is already under way to begin planning for the FY 2015/2016 budget that takes effect on July 1, 2015. All town departments have submitted their capital budget requests, and operating budget requests are due in early November. Residents who would like to attend the meetings (at which the details of the budget are discussed) may be interested in the following announcements.

**Capital Budget Presentations:** All to be held in the Selectmen’s Chamber at Avon Town Hall, 60 West Main

Street, on the following dates and times:

Monday, November 3rd - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 19th - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 4th - 7:00 p.m.

**Operating Budget Workshop:** This is traditionally a half-day meeting held on a Saturday in February in the Selectmen’s Chamber at Town Hall. Look in your January issue of the Newsletter for the date. The complete budget calendar is available on-line at: [www.town.avon.ct.us](http://www.town.avon.ct.us).

## Avon Staff is 100% Certified by the International Code Council

One hundred percent of Avon Building Department staff has earned professional certifications from the International Code Council. Through rigorous testing, ICC Certifications ensure that staff have demonstrated competency in the requirements of the *International Codes*, a complete set of comprehensive, coordinated codes used in most U.S. communities and many global markets for the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures.

The Code Council’s certification program is the oldest, largest, and most prestigious credentialing program for construction code administration and enforcement professionals in the United States. The *Avon Building Department* earned the 100 percent designation through the Get Everyone Certified Challenge presented by ICC and **Target**, which is committed to building strong, safe communities and promoting education. **In 2010, Target announced plans to give \$1 billion for education by the end of the 2015 fiscal year.** Partnering with the Code Council to promote code knowledge is an obvious blending of these two initiatives.

ICC Certifications also demonstrate expert knowledge by staff and can assist in the department’s future efforts to become accredited by the International Accreditation Service. In addition, individuals have earned credentials in specific trade or inspection areas, enhancing staff versatility. “ICC Certifications demonstrate a professional commitment to public safety, diverse knowledge of construction safety codes and a high level of self-initiative,” said James Sansone. “Being professionally certified by the Code Council provides a nationally recognized credential that will only enhance the services provided to Avon residents, design community and contractors.”

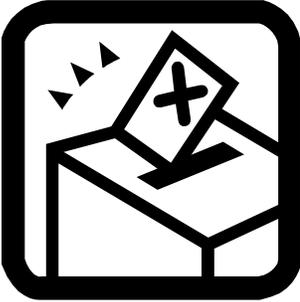
The *Avon Building Department* staff who have earned professional certifications include: Building Official *James Sansone* “Certified Building Official”, former Assistant Building Official *John Porcelli* “Certified Building Official” and Building Office Technician *Susan Gatcomb* “Certified Permit Technician”. “Becoming Code Council-certified is a significant personal and professional accomplishment, and is a key step toward enhanced professional stature,” said ICC Board of Directors President Ronald Piester. “Code Council certificate holders demonstrate a confirmed commitment to public safety and building safe communities.”

### ANNUAL REPORT & TOWN CALENDAR DELIVERY

**Residents are reminded that the Annual Report will not be mailed to households. A limited number will be available at the Town Hall, the Library, Senior Center, and the Landfill. Reports will be ready for pick-up by Monday, December 1, 2014.**



## Dates to Remember for the November Election



**October 3, 2014** - Absentee ballots became available in the Town Clerk's Office. If you need an absentee ballot, you may pick up an application and ballot at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours, or call (860) 409-4310 to request that an application be mailed to you.

**October 18, 2014** - Registrars of Voters will be in their office at 60 West Main Street, Building #1, Avon, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to register voters.

**October 28, 2014** - Last day to register to vote **in person** to be eligible to vote on November 4, 2014. The Registrars of Voters will be in their office at 60 West Main Street, Building #1, Avon, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to register voters. Any questions regarding voter registration should be directed to the Registrars of Voters at (860) 409-4350.

**November 3, 2014** - Last day to apply for an absentee ballot. Last day to register to vote in person (between 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) **if** your qualifications as to age, citizenship, or residence were attained **after** October 28, 2014.

**November 4, 2014 (Election Day)** - The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. See back page of the Newsletter for polling locations.



## Avon's (New) Recreation and Parks Director

On July 21st, the Town of Avon welcomed Ruth Checko, formerly the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of East Hampton, to replace Avon's long-time Director, Glenn Marston. Ruth was selected from among 27 candidates for the position. Ruth worked in East Hampton's Parks and Recreation Department for 14 years and had served as Director for the last 9 years. She also wore several other hats in East Hampton, serving as both the Wetlands Enforcement Officer and Deputy Tree Warden.

In managing recreation activities in East Hampton, Ruth partnered with area businesses, municipal agencies and civic groups to enhance program offerings. She also was responsible for managing public parks, school grounds, programs and waterfront/facilities at Lake Pocotopaug. She has demonstrated a wealth of experience in fiscal management, budget, project management, including organic and traditional turf maintenance practices, and grant writing in her prior employment. Ruth is a member of the Connecticut and National Recreation and Parks Associations. And, unlike her predecessor, Ruth is a die-hard Red Sox fan (thanks to her husband).

Ruth hit the ground running and has already become an integral part of the organization. "I keep telling people that I wanted a challenge. I certainly found one, and I love every minute of it." We look forward to continued excellence, creativity, and exemplary Recreation and Parks programs and services under her leadership. When Ruth isn't out in one of Avon's many parks or open spaces, she can be found in her office at 60 West Main Street. Be sure to stop by to welcome her as Avon's "new" Recreation and Parks Director.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING INFORMATION PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER, CALL THE TOWN MANAGER, AVON TOWN HALL, AT (860) 409-4300.



## DPW Snow Removal & Ice Control Operations and Guidelines

**General:** Avon Public Works is charged with the responsibility of responding to winter snow and ice events. Our goal is to keep streets passable and reasonably safe during the storm and to clear the streets, curb to curb, within 8 to 12 hours after the storm has ended. Our plow drivers work long hours in hazardous driving conditions, and we appreciate your patience during snow and ice events.

**Snow Routes:** The 112 miles of town roads (approximate) maintained by DPW are divided into 11 snow plow routes.



One plow truck and driver is assigned to each plow route for the entire winter season.

**Priorities:** During snow events, the primary focus is to provide a safe travel way for cars and emergency vehicles on heavily traveled roadways. While snow is actively falling, plowing is generally limited to the center portion of the roadway to clear a path wide enough for one travel lane in each direction. As a winter storm subsides, more efforts can be directed to local roadways and cul-de-sacs. Depending on the severity of a storm, it can take up to 4 hours +/- to make passes on all streets in town. Snow removal often continues for 8 to 12 hours after snow has stopped falling.

**Mail Box Damage:** During the winter season, it is inevitable that some mailboxes and posts will be damaged during winter plowing operations. Avon's policy is to reimburse residents \$20.00 for mailboxes and \$65.00 for posts that are damaged as a result of direct contact with a Town snow plow. Mailboxes that are damaged from the force of snow thrown against them or mailboxes that are located closer than 9-inches to the roadway are not eligible for reimbursement.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

**I live on a cul-de-sac and end up with significant amounts of snow in my driveway. Why?** Plowing cul-de-sacs is one of the most challenging operations during a snow storm. Most properties on cul-de-sacs have frontages that are narrower than lots on a straight street. Therefore, snow must be pushed into a smaller space.

**Why is snow pushed into my driveway by street plows?** It is unavoidable and it is not done intentionally. Snow cast into driveways is an unfortunate byproduct of a very necessary service we provide. When we plow a street, we are simply moving the snow that is in the street off to the side of the street. The greater the amount of snow, the more snow that is deposited on the side.

**Who is responsible for clearing in front of my mailbox?** We plow the streets curb to curb, or as close as we can get. Whatever snow is left in front of mailboxes is the responsibility of the property owner to remove (or at least to move in order for the mailbox to be accessible to the mail carrier).

**Can I, as a resident, push snow from my property onto the sidewalk or street? NO!** Town Ordinance restricts the act of pushing snow back onto a street and doing so may result in a fine of \$50 and/or liability if an accident is caused by this dumping of snow. Please be respectful of passing motorists expecting a clear street by not putting snow back onto the street. Remember, if you contract for snow removal, you are still responsible for where the snow ends up.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Saturday, November 1, 2014

The Town of Avon, in conjunction with Canton, Granby, and Simsbury will be holding a household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, November 1, 2014 at the Simsbury Public Works Facility at 66 Town Forest Road. The collection will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and will be open to all residents from Avon, Canton, Granby, and Simsbury.

**ISSUE XLIV**  
**October 2014**

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## **IMPORTANT DATE**

### **ELECTION**

**NOVEMBER 4, 2014**

**6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

**Absentee Ballots will be available.**

**Any questions regarding absentee ballots should be directed to the  
Town Clerk's Office at (860) 409-4310.**

**District #1**—Avon High School  
510 West Avon Road  
Gymnasium

**District #2**—Fire House Co. #1  
25 Darling Drive  
Upper Level

**District #3**—Roaring Brook School  
30 Old Wheeler Lane  
Gymnasium